

140: LIFE AND DEATH



SKYBOUND

THE WALKING DEAD

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN



114

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD

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Previously:

While trailing the Whisperers, Carl is discovered by Alpha. Down by the harbor, Rick and Ezekiel exchange goods between their communities. And await Michonne, who returns from sea with her crew. Though happy to see Rick, she has no desire to rejoin Alexandria ever again.

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I WANT
TO... MORE
THAN
ANYTHING.

THAT'S
WHY I CAN
NEVER GO
HOME.



NO AMOUNT OF
MISERY IS GOING
TO BRING YOUR
DAUGHTERS
BACK.

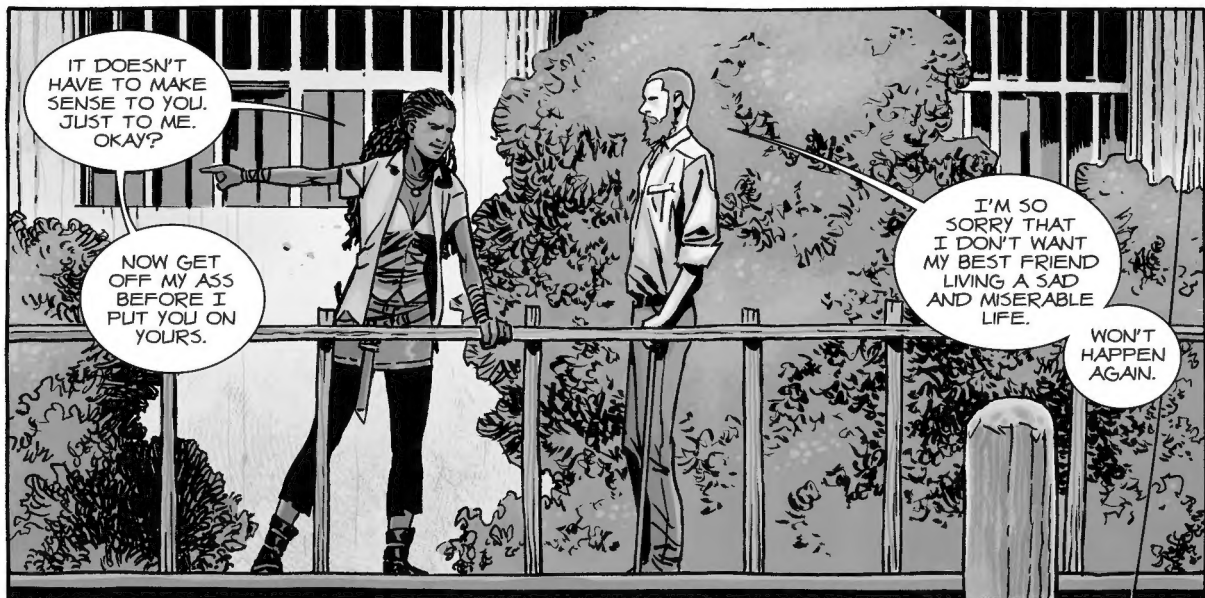


IT'S NOT ABOUT THAT,
OR EARNING THE RIGHT
TO A HAPPY LIFE... IT'S
ABOUT LIVING THE LIFE
I **DESERVE**
TO LIVE.

IT'S NOT
THAT HARD TO
UNDERSTAND.



I UNDERSTAND
IT. IT JUST
DOESN'T MAKE
ANY GODDAMN
SENSE.

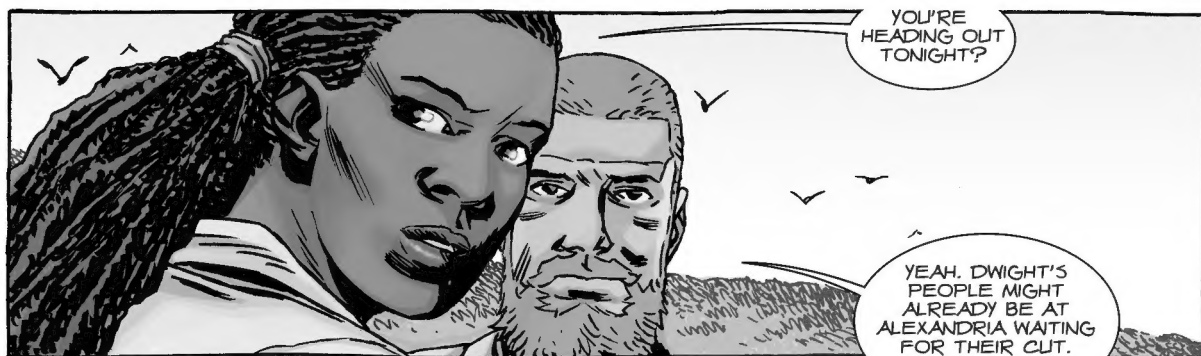


IT DOESN'T
HAVE TO MAKE
SENSE TO YOU.
JUST TO ME.
OKAY?

NOW GET
OFF MY ASS
BEFORE I
PUT YOU ON
YOURS.

I'M SO
SORRY THAT
I DON'T WANT
MY BEST FRIEND
LIVING A SAD
AND MISERABLE
LIFE.

WON'T
HAPPEN
AGAIN.







I'M NOT
SUPPOSED TO
BE HERE. I'M
INNOCENT! I
DID NOTHING
WRONG!

I'VE BEEN
ADVISING
MAGGIE THIS
WHOLE TIME.
EVERY MOVE SHE'S
MADE HAS BEEN
UNDER MY DIRECTION!
SHE WAS WORRIED
PEOPLE WERE GOING
TO FIND OUT--THAT
HER POSITION
WOULD BE
THREATENED!

I WOULD
NEVER HAVE
REVEALED
MYSELF! I'M NOT
A GLORY SEEKER!
I WAS HAPPY TO
HELP HER
LEAD!

SHE DIDN'T
BELIEVE ME!
SHE'S DOING THIS
TO DISCREDIT ME!
SHE'S FRAMING ME
FOR AN ATTEMPT
ON HER LIFE--I
COULDN'T HURT
A FLY.

I WAS
FRAMED!



SO YOU DIDN'T STEAL THE OXYCODONE PILLS THAT ARE MISSING FROM THE MEDICINE LOCKER, THE BOTTLE OF WHICH WAS FOUND IN YOUR TRAILER?

NO!
THEY WERE PLANTED THERE!



SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT MAGGIE PLANTED THE EVIDENCE IN YOUR TRAILER AND THEN... POISONED HERSELF.

I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT THAT'S THE ONLY SCENARIO THAT MAKES SENSE.



BUT GREGORY... IT DOESN'T.



HE STILL TRYING TO SPIN THAT STORY ABOUT ME FRAMING HIM?

YEP. BUT IT'S LIKE YOU SAID, STORY'S ALREADY CHANGING A BIT.

MAGGIE? YOU'RE OUT THERE, TOO?



YES.

TELL ME AGAIN HOW WHAT JESUS SAW, YOU STANDING OVER ME SAYING--WHAT WAS IT... "ALL IS RIGHT IN THE WORLD"--HOW DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?



HE'S ON YOUR SIDE. JESUS ALWAYS HATED ME!







...

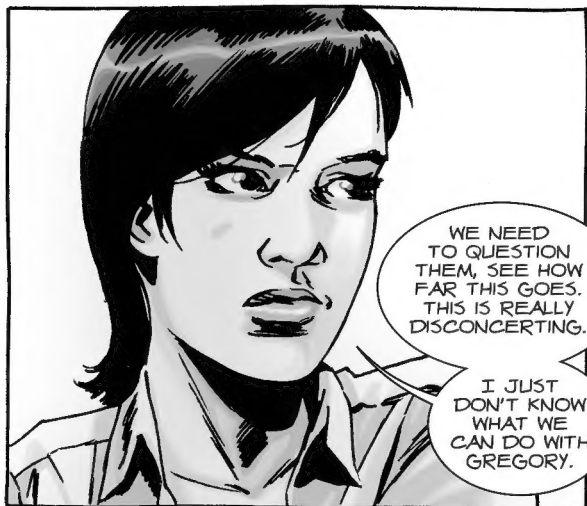


GREGORY WAS
RIGHT THERE
TO FAN THOSE
FLAMES.



THOSE FAMILIES...
THEY HAD TO BE
INVOLVED IN
THIS.

I HADN'T
CONSIDERED
THAT, BUT IT
MAKES SENSE.



WE NEED
TO QUESTION
THEM, SEE HOW
FAR THIS GOES.
THIS IS REALLY
DISCONCERTING.

I JUST
DON'T KNOW
WHAT WE
CAN DO WITH
GREGORY.



ALL I'M
SAYING IS THIS
ISN'T AS CUT
AND DRY AS
THINGS WERE
WITH NEGAN.

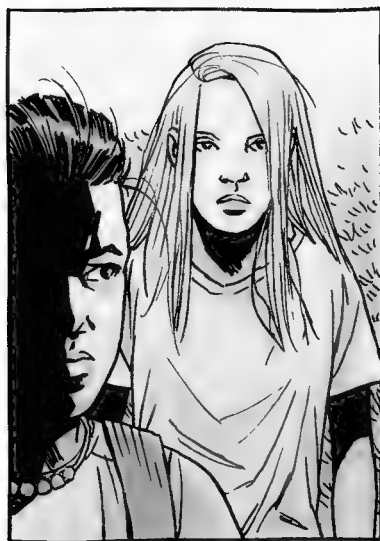
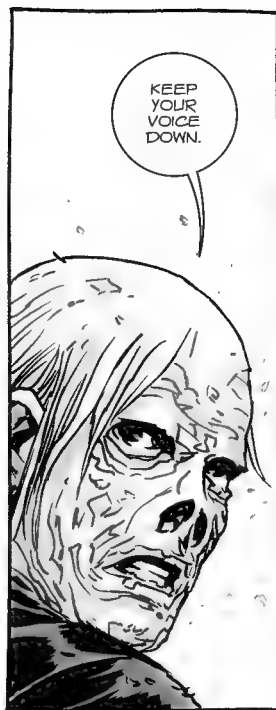


WELL, I'M
BACK. DID
YOU MISS
ME?

CAN I
ASSUME BY
YOUR TONE
THAT YOU
ACTUALLY
FOUND
CARL?











CLAUDETTE,
PLEASE.

I KNOW THAT
WHAT HAPPENED
WITH YOUR SON
PUT US IN AN AWFUL
SITUATION, AND
MAYBE I DIDN'T
HANDLE IT AS WELL
AS I COULD
HAVE...

...BUT I STILL
FIND IT HARD
TO BELIEVE
YOU'D REALLY
WANT ME
DEAD.



IT WAS
GREGORY!

IT WAS ALL
HIS IDEA. HE'S
THE ONE THAT
BROUGHT IT UP.
I KNOW WE SHOULD
HAVE COME TO YOU,
WARNED YOU--BUT
WE WERE
SCARED OF
HIM.

IF HE
COULD KILL
YOU-- WHAT
WOULD HE
DO TO US?



THANK YOU
FOR TELLING
ME THE
TRUTH.



I'M
SORRY.

I'M
SO SORRY,
MAGGIE!



YOU WERE AGAINST THIS?
YOU DIDN'T WANT GREGORY
TO KILL MAGGIE... BUT YOU
DID NOTHING TO
STOP IT.

AM I
UNDERSTANDING
THE SITUATION?



...



I WAS
ANGRY.

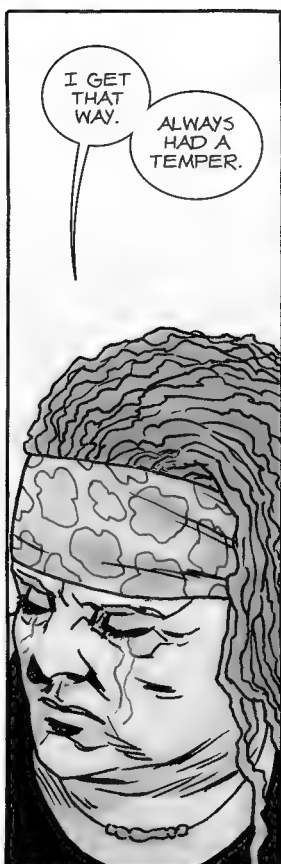
MY SON
WAS HURT, YOU
WERE ACTING LIKE
IT WAS HIS FAULT.
I THOUGHT I WAS
GOING TO LOSE
HIM.

SO... I
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
UPSET
IF YOU'D
DIED.



THAT
SOUNDS
AWFUL.
NO.

WHAT I
MEAN TO SAY IS
IN THE MOMENT,
AS ANGRY AS I
WAS... I JUST
WASN'T THINKING
STRAIGHT.



I GET
THAT
WAY.

ALWAYS
HAD A
TEMPER.



AND YOUR HUSBAND,
MORTON?
AND THE HARLAN
FAMILY?

THEY HAVE
THE SAME
TEMPER?



WELL...

GREGORY
CAN BE
REALLY
PERSUASIVE.





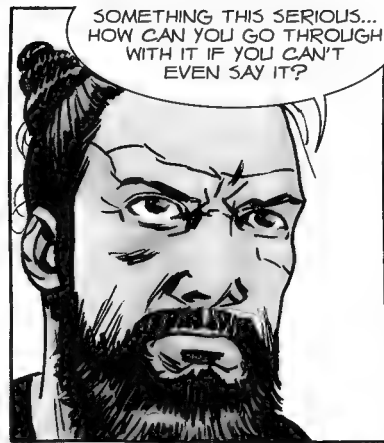
NO... I'M
PRETTY
SURE I
HAVE.

THAT'S THE
PROBLEM.

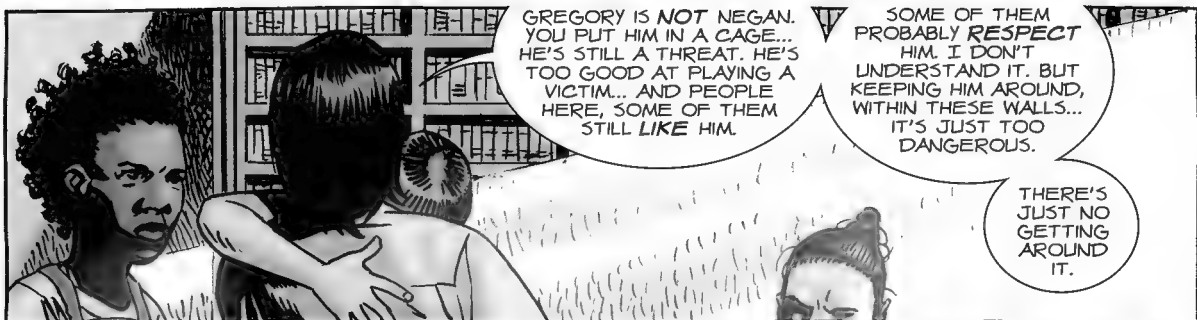


AND?

YOU KNOW.
YOU WERE
RIGHT,
OKAY?



SOMETHING THIS SERIOUS...
HOW CAN YOU GO THROUGH
WITH IT IF YOU CAN'T
EVEN SAY IT?



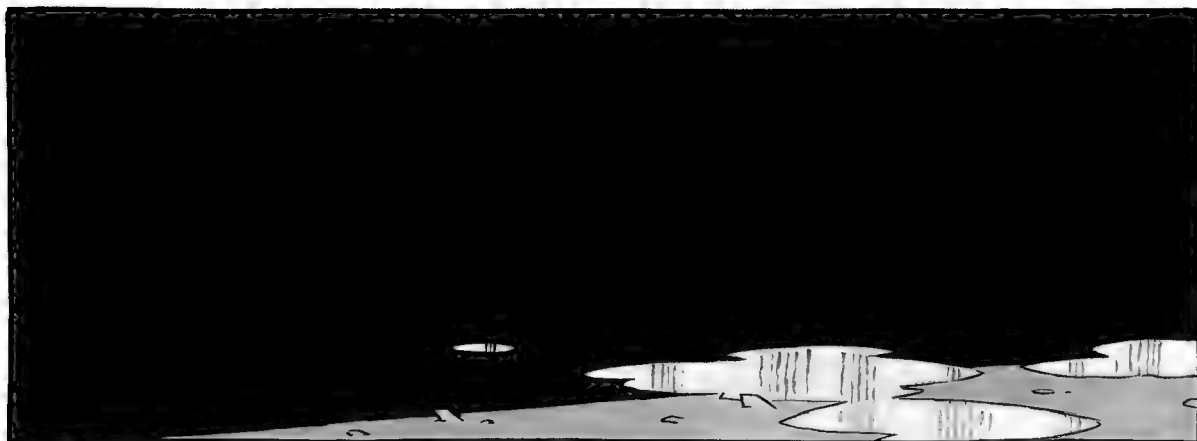
GREGORY IS NOT NEGAN.
YOU PUT HIM IN A CAGE...
HE'S STILL A THREAT. HE'S
TOO GOOD AT PLAYING A
VICTIM... AND PEOPLE
HERE, SOME OF THEM
STILL LIKE HIM.

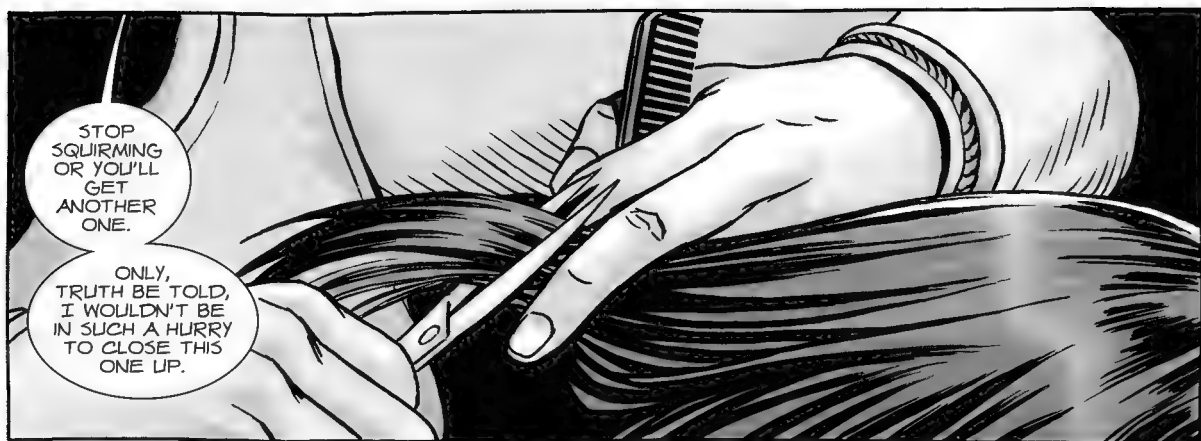
SOME OF THEM
PROBABLY **RESPECT**
HIM. I DON'T
UNDERSTAND IT. BUT
KEEPING HIM AROUND,
WITHIN THESE WALLS...
IT'S JUST TOO
DANGEROUS.

THERE'S
JUST NO
GETTING
AROUND
IT.



GREGORY
HAS TO
DIE.





THE ONE
THING I'VE
NEVER BEEN
ACCUSED OF
IS BEING
GOOD.





OKAY,
WRAP IT
UP.

PUT THIS
ANIMAL BACK
IN HIS
CAGE.

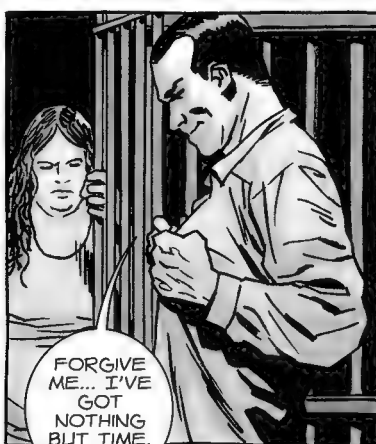


WELL...
FUN
WHILE IT
LASTED.



GO ON.

STOP
STALLING.



FORGIVE
ME... I'VE
GOT
NOTHING
BUT TIME.



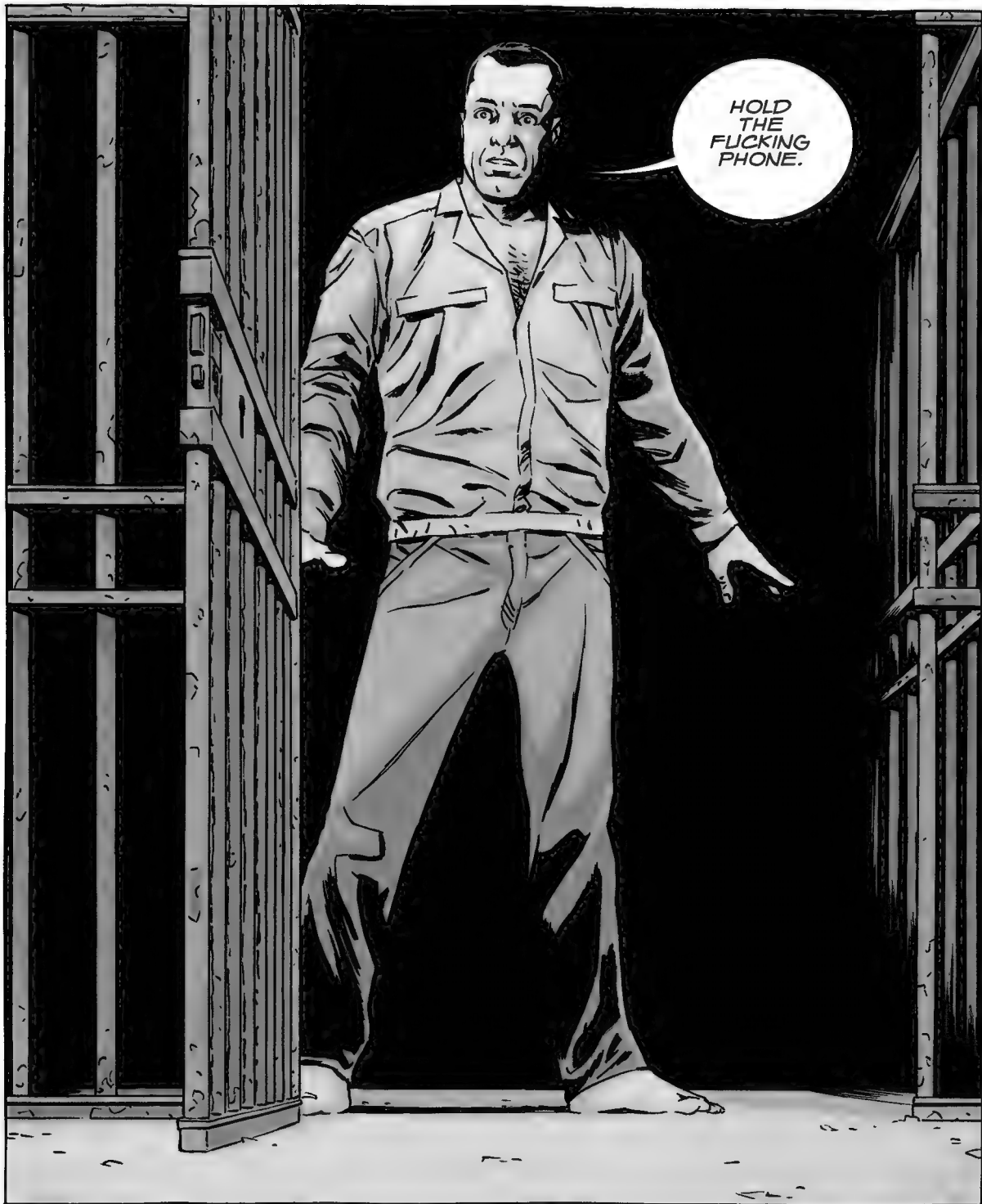
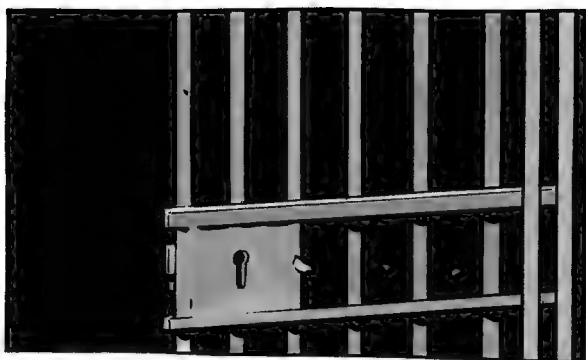
IT'S
NOT--

WAIT,
THERE IT
GOES.

CLICK.



COME
AGAIN
SOON.



LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

I goddamn love when Charlie gets to kick ass on a two-page spread, and seeing the Whisperer camp nails it. Also... what the hell is Negan about to do? I mean, seriously...

Wouldn't you like to know! (Actually... next issue is already done... so we all already know, don't we? Poor readers... having to wait weeks for these things.)

Letters?!

Wait, no! Before we do that, I want to thank the diehard core audience that reads these things. We're in a pretty crazy hot streak here that has lasted way longer than I ever thought it would. Sales on the comic are actually still ticking up... with recent issues creating a new baseline of sales. And ratings on the show have been consistently up for the second half of season 5... which is pretty much unheard of at this point in a TV show's life. I never lose sight of the fact that this all started with you fine people. I don't often enough take the time to stop and thank all of you for the years of support you've dedicated to this title. I hope we'll all be here together for years to come. THANKS!

Now... letters. I might even try to be a little nicer this month.

What up?

Buzzing in from Trinidad to say that after being a bit disappointed by the last couple of issues, (move the story along, please!) I thought that 138 was pretty...

Well, it was...

Rad.

Kydra Venus
Trinidad

Are we seriously attempting to go with this gimmick again? I know it's called Letter HACKS... but we are totally better than repeating such a hacky joke. ...I damn well fucking hope.

I'm not touching this one.

Hi Walking Dead Crew!

I just finished issue #138, it was great! I'm excited to see Carl going out on his own adventure, good to see he still doesn't do what he's told.

I was wondering if there were any plans on making some stuff specifically about the Whisperers (a book, comic, game, musical... whatever). I'm a fan of the books about the Governor, and like others would like to see something about Negan, but I think I'd rather hear about how the Whisperers came to be.

Keep it up, and you should release two issues a month more often!

Andrew
Lancaster, PA

The primary way to learn about the Whisperers for now is the comic. And with shots of their camp this issue, there's still plenty to come. It's going to be...

good shit.

Nicely done. See... I'm being SO nice.

So, is that Alpha carrying the shotgun in issue 132 that takes Dante hostage and apparently already has Ken hostage or is it another Whisperer that happens to be carrying a double barrel shotgun? It's driving me crazy since the build of the whisperer looks like that of a man and has different clothes on compared to what Alpha was wearing when they did the person exchange at the Hilltop.

Cheers,

Drew

There's been some speculation and to clear it up, yes, that absolutely is Alpha, for all you first appearance geeks out there.

Yes, that's totally Alpha... and what the heck are you talking about looking like a man? Look at those eyes! Also... all you can really see is her shoulder.

Hi, Kirkman and Fwends!

First of all, thanks for creating that great comic. The storytelling is better and better since the All Out War arc. Don't pay attention to those crybabies who complain that "It's not 'No One is Safe' anymore". It has never been "No One is Safe". The characters you need to advance your story ARE indeed safe for the time you need them to bring the story where you want to bring it. If that was not the case, you'd be totally stupid for voluntarily fucking up your own story and you sure are not. The thing is only you and Charlie, not us readers, know which characters are safe and until when. And it's your prerogative to do what you goddamn want, you are the author of this book. Even if I'm still suspecting you pandered a bit too much to the Shiva haters by killing the tiger very soon after saying in these Letter HACKs that it would be there for a while. I know, you said you didn't pander to the Shiva haters but I don't believe you on this. Anyway... A few comments... and questions...

Is it so hard to believe that I would say something misleading in the letters column to misdirect readers?! I do that ALL THE TIME!

Alpha... Why does she shave her head? Lice? Do the other whisperers shave their heads too or is it just her? Lydia obviously doesn't. Is it only the adults? And is Alpha her real name or did she make it up? I get that she hasn't a last name yet. Please make it be Boucher! PleasePleasePleasePleasePlease! Alpha Boucher, that would be so great! What about Magna? Real name or she made that up? Don't worry, I won't ask for a Magna Carta. An Alpha Boucher would be just fine ;)

Alpha is made up... it's a name she gave herself. You'll find out more soon. Magna is her real name. Her last name is Nimous and Alpha's last name is Betsoup.

No really. Both of those are true.

Seeing that the fair is coming and the weather seems to be fine on the cover of #142, I hope you order Charlie a lot of girls in shorts! I'm still sad that we never see Rosita in her short shorts anymore... Does she still have them? I understand that they won't fit anymore pretty soon but...

Ah... And thanks for showing us Andrea in short shorts recently. Rosita had filled a void, being the only girl in short shorts in the comic. You have gay characters, latino, black, asian, handicapped characters, but not enough girls in short shorts! An important part of society is missing! Lydia in short shorts would be fine BTW, cutest character you ever made... But please no short shorts made of zombie flesh. Would be gross even for that publication!

Thanks from Canada,

Frances MacLeod
Municipalite d'Aubert-Gallion, QC
Canada

I don't even know what to say. A short shorts enthusiast? Flesh shorts is a pretty good idea... we'll get right on that.

Oh Captain! My, Captain! -

(For me, this covers only 3 great men- Mr. Walt Whitman, the amazingly talented Robin Williams and of course, our dear Capt. Kirk himself!)

I want to ask about how the "whisperers" suits are made? How could they possibly sew rotting flesh unless they tanned the skins into leather first? If this was done, it should be obvious that they are just suits, I would think?

Love & Body Parts!
Cheryl Lingerfelt
Skipwith, VA

They are washed, but not tanned. They do not last long. The suits, y'know... decay after a while. If you look at the big shot of their camp in this issue, you can see a bit of that process. More on that later.

Hi, Walking Dead PPL:

So it's a rainy Saturday morning on St. Patrick's day weekend, and everyone I know is discussing what they're drinking tonight, and I can only discuss what's going on with the Walking Dead. And for the longest time there have been three matters I've always wanted clarified:

1. Why haven't nuclear power plants melted down yet? There are numerous nuclear reactors along the east coast, in particular Virginia (where our characters reside) and presumably abandoned or taken over by walkers. The power is out in the main land, so no one is manning these now aging reactors at these plants. So I'd like to know if nuclear walkers are on the horizon.

I'd imagine there are emergency protocols for nuclear reactors... and it's too late in the day for me to get lost in a Google hole... So yeah, safeguards. Lots of safeguards in the event of emergency. But maybe there is a fucking crater somewhere in the States and we just haven't gotten to it. (Shout out to my hometown power plant, Pilgrim Nuclear Station. We ran emergency drills in case you melted down and I've forgotten them all. So it goes.)

Yeah... safeguards...

2. What's going on with the astronauts aboard the ISS station orbiting Earth? Are they trapped up there? Are they dead? And more importantly, are they walkers? Does the walker pandemic exist in space? That would give more insight if walkers are only an isolated incident or not. I've always wanted to see a story open with a picture of the Earth and then you see an astronaut floating in orbit, and then a close up on the astronaut and it's a zombie astronaut.

Go read Y the Last Man. They deal with this stuff there and it's pretty cool. That book was the Saga before Saga was fucking Saga. (I'm swearing more and I can't fucking help it. That Negan thing just got me all...)

Yeah... answering this would reveal too much about the origins of the zombie apocalypse... which I have no intention of doing. I've already said too much.

3. Do you foresee a character in this universe that is resistant to the walkers? World War Z touched on this concept a bit where zombies wouldn't attack people with terminal diseases. Since walkers are an un-explainable phenomenon, is there a human with an un-explainable power that the walkers would not instinctively attack or actually flee from? The human in question is not wearing walker flesh to disguise themselves from the walkers. He or she can just walk right through a horde unharmed and the walkers quickly would move out of their way or even cower and cover their faces or eyes out of

a fearful instinct that this human is a predator, like a mouse or a rabbit would when a predator approaches. An interesting character development for the walkers.

Not only that, but this human cannot become a walker either. They can die naturally and walkers won't even bite him. This unique human can even stop someone from becoming a walker through some sort of fluid transmission like spitting into someone's walker bite or a blood transfusion. Ever see the movie "Day Breakers?" You'll know what I mean.

I hope not.

That idea is neat and all, and has been done in numerous other zombie stories... so for that and various other reasons, you'll never see it in TWD.

Anyway I think about walkers too much. And I hope Alpha and Negan become an item eventually in the story. Keep doing amazing things with this epic comic series.

John

I think you're the first person shipping Negan and Alpha. Nealpha? Alphagan?

Hi!!

So, my boyfriend keeps bitching about this, but never writes to y'all when I tell him to, so I'll just do it for him. :)

In the show, Sasha slices through a zombie and it cuts Abraham's arm. In the comics, Negan (our future German Shepherd's name) and his men rub their weapons in walker filth to infect anyone they attack. It proved successful in the comic, however it obviously doesn't in the show. Happily so, because I love Abraham and his "mother dick" shouting self!! So.... How come??

One last thing, I wrote in one other time and asked briefly why Andrea sucked so badly in the show, but now I see that Sasha is the new Andrea, and I think it's rad. Yup, after the letter hacks in issue 138, I'm bringing rad back.

Much love,

Samantha Savory
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Normally we don't run show questions, but this was on my radar, too... and I damn well want an answer.

Stay tuned...

TWDers,

Okay, never wrote in to comment on this comic/story/phenomenon, but I think that now's the time to thank you for such a deep and involving narrative.

But you are now breaking my heart...

I am, of course, referring to #138 and that double-page spread of Carl and Lydia looking back at each other before they go back to their communities. I had my doubts about her, but this feels real. All the deaths, losses, near misses and mutilations I have seen in this incredible story, and this is what really gets to me...

Am I an old man now?

Or just a sentimental fool. Can't call it.

Anyway, keep it coming...

P. S. Michonne is on a yacht in the Caribbean Sea wondering why anyone sticks with dry land anymore!

KD

See you next month, when we see some more fucking NEGAN. Can't wait!

-Sean Mackiewicz

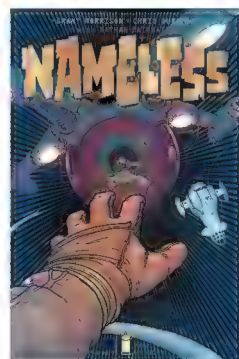
It's going to be motherfucking Negan fucktastic!

-Robert Kirkman

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!



BIRTHRIGHT #6
ON SALE NOW

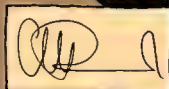


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WHO IS THE NEW

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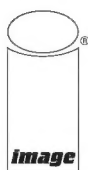
THE WORLD HAS BEEN POISONED TO DEATH



I N J E C T I O N TM

FROM THE CREATORS OF MOON KNIGHT: FROM THE DEAD

MAY 2015



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BRIAN BUCCELLATO

TONI INFANTE

SONS OF THE DEVIL

“The sins of
the father are
to be laid upon
the children.”

—Shakespeare

MAY 2015



image

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**"CERTAIN PANELS MAY GIVE
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—IO9

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LIE MUCH DEEPER THAN THE
FIGHT-OR-FLIGHT RUSH OF OUTSIDE
FORCES HURTING OR MAIMING.
MUCH LIKE THE WORKS OF MARY
SHELLEY AND THE OTHER WRITERS
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—IGN

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—JOE HILL

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